Recent orders of TRAI

3054. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made an assessment of the financial implications for BSNL due to recent orders of TRAI during the last three months;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such financial implications would adversely affect the future development plan of BSNL; and

(d) if so, in what way the BSNL proposes to overcome the financial impact of TRAI order?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Sir, estimated financial implications of the recent TRAI orders for BSNL are as follows:

(i) Access Deficit Charge (ADC) has been reduced from Rs. 3200 crores to Rs. 2000 crores for the year 2007-08.

(ii) Port charges have been reduced by about Rs. 100 crores.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) As regards ADC, BSNL may be compelled to review its tariffs particularly in wire-line and rural telephony to overcome the financial impact due to reduction of ADC amount. BSNL has no way to overcome the financial impact due to reduction in port charges.

Submarine Cable Landing Station in West Bengal

3055. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:
SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1649 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 7th December, 2006 and state:

(a) the present status of the implementation of the approved Submarine

Cable Landing Station in West Bengal;

(b) the details of the total project cost of the above project; and

(c) the date of completion of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEELAHMAD): (a) to (c) Sir, M/s. Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) and M/s. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) are jointly working towards setting up of International long distance link through submarine optical fibre cable from eastern side of the country towards Malaysia and Singapore. A consultant has already been appointed for this project and at present formulation of specification, finalization of landing station etc. are in process. Based on the report of the consultant, further action in this matter will be taken up.

Mobile services in rural areas of Uttarakhand

†3056. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of availability of mobile services in various districts of Uttarakhand;

(b) whether it is proposed to set up intensive tower network in rural areas in order to expand the areas coming under mobile service; and

(c) if so, the number of towers and locations thereof to be installed in various districts of Uttarakhand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEELAHMAD): (a) All the district headquarters of Uttarakhand have been provided with mobile services and it is estimated that about 40% of the population is covered by mobile services.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) is providing support for creation of shared towers across the country including Uttarakhand. In Uttarakhand, 217 towers are going to be set up with support from USOF for covering remote and rural areas in the 13 districts of Uttarakhand.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.